

TWO NEW PIGMY GERBILS FROM BRITISH
EAST AFRICA

BY GUY DOLLMAN

*From 'The Annals and Magazine of Natural History'**Dipodillus Percivali*, sp. n.

Intermediate in size between *Dipodillus diminutus*, Dollm., and *D. Harwoodi*, Thos.

General colour of dorsal surface rather richer than in *diminutus*; on the back the effect is almost as rich as in the 'amber-brown' of Ridgway (1912), gradually becoming paler on the flanks (between 'ochraceous tawny' and 'cinnamon'). Backs of hands and feet and ventral surface of body white. Tail like that of *Harwoodi*.

Skull considerably larger than that of *diminutus*, but not as large as in the Naivasha species.

Dimensions of type (measured in the flesh): Head and body 78 mm.; tail 102; hind foot 20; ear 11.

Skull: greatest length 23·7; basilar length 16·8; length of nasals 8·5; zygomatic breadth 12·2; interorbital constriction 4; breadth across brain-case 11·5; length of anterior palatal foramina 4·3; length of upper cheek-teeth (from front alveolar border to back of last molar) 3·6.

Hab.—Voi, British East Africa. Altitude 2500 feet.

Type.—Adult female. Original number 1544. Collected and presented to the British Museum by A. Blayney Percival, Esq.

This Voi *Dipodillus* is evidently more nearly related to the northern form *D. diminutus*, from the Northern Guaso Nyiro than to the Naivasha species, *D. Harwoodi*. In general dimensions it is intermediate between these two species, and in colour rather richer and brighter than *diminutus*.

This handsome little Gerbil I have named after the collector, Mr. Blayney Percival, the value of whose field-work in British East Africa it would be difficult to exaggerate.

Dipodillus luteus, sp. n.

Allied to *D. Harwoodi*, Thos., but distinguished by its very much duller and paler colour.

Size of body as in *Harwoodi*; tail rather shorter.

General colour of dorsal surface dirty drab-buff, near 'tawny-olive' (Ridgway 1912), washed over with greyish brown, the resulting effect very much paler and more subdued than in *Harwoodi*. Backs of hands and feet and undersurface of body white.

Skull slightly larger, with broader nasals and wider brain-case.

Dimensions of type (measured in the flesh).—Head and body 74 mm.; tail 94; hind foot 21; ear 10.

Skull; greatest length 26·5; basilar length 19·8; zygomatic breadth 13·5 (approximate); interorbital constriction 5·4; breadth of brain-case 12·8; length of anterior palatal foramina 5; length of upper cheek-teeth (from front alveolar border to back of last molar) 4.

Hab.—Southern Guaso Nyiro, Nyanza Province, British East Africa. Altitude 6500 feet.

Type.—Adult male, B.M., No. 18, 10, 18, 65. Original number 118. Collected by W. P. Lowe, Esq., on November 29, 1912, and presented to the British Museum by G. P. Cosens, Esq.

The pale drab colour of this form immediately separates it from *Harwoodi*, *diminutus*, and *Percivali*.

We have thus four species of the genus *Dipodillus* in British East Africa: (1) *D. diminutus*, from the Northern Guaso Nyiro (altitude 3200 feet); (2) *D. Percivali*, from Voi (altitude 2500 feet); (3) *D. Harwoodi*, from Naivasha (altitude 6300 feet); (4) *D. luteus*, from the Southern Guaso Nyiro (altitude 6500 feet).